(b) The details of foodgrains (wheat and rice) imported since 1991 are as under:—

Year	Commodity	Country from which imported	Qty. in Lakh MT	Value (in crore Rs.)
1991-92	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1992-93	Wheat	Canada	10.27	525.29
		Australia	8.74	421.26
		USA	6.88	318.69
	Rice	Vietnam	0.72	46.11
			0.14	—
1993-94	Wheat	Australia	1.76	95.27
		USA	3.00	157.14
	Rice	Vietnam	0.56*	
1994-95	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1995-96	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1996-97	Wheat	Canada	Nil	Nil
		Australia	7.52	463.10
		Argentina	0.46	28.57
1997-98		Canada	2.66	179.00
		Australia	6.38	392.90
		Argentina	0.49	30.43

* Against payment of interest dues on old commodity loan outstanding against Vietnam.

Medicinal Plants

1057. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the priceless medicinal plants growing in UP hills are being smuggled out to countries abroad in disregard of forest laws; and

(b) if so, the number of cases that have come to light in the last one year and the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Under the current Export-Import Policy of the Govt. of India, 53 plants obtained from the wild are included in the prohibited list of exports. These include 45 plants which are predominantly of medicinal value. Some cases of smuggling of these plants, plant products and derivatives are detected from time to time.

(b) During the last one year (1996-97) 38 cases of attempted smuggling of medicinal plants have been detected and action taken against the offenders under the Customs Act, 1962. The States have also been advised not the freedly issue permits for the plants which are in the critical or endangered categories, and guard against their indiscriminate exploitation.